

What is claimed is:

1. A sample suction apparatus comprising:
- a first member, a second member and a third member capable of linearly reciprocating along the same direction and spaced apart from each other, the second member being located between the first member and the third member;
- a drive source provided on the third member to enlarge and reduce a distance between the first member and the third member;
- an elastically compressible spacer inserted between the second member and the third member; and
- a suction needle provided on the third member, the suction needle pointing to the first member, wherein the drive source reduces the distance between the first member and the third member to perform: a first action of shifting the first member toward the third member to contact the first member with a portion of a specimen vessel; a second action of shifting the second member together with the third member toward the first member to contact the second member with another portion of the specimen vessel so that the specimen vessel is sandwiched between the first and second members; and a third action of shifting the third member toward the first member to compress the spacer to bring the third member close to the second member so that the suction needle is inserted in the specimen vessel.

2. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first, second and third members comprise three sliders slidably mounted on a rail.

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3. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive source comprises an air cylinder having a piston rod, the air cylinder being provided on the third member and a distal end of the piston rod being connected with the first member.

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4. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising: a substrate on which the rail and a stopper for restricting the movement of the first member toward the third member are provided; and a biasing member for biasing the third member toward a direction opposite to the first member.

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5. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising: a substrate on which the rail and a stopper for restricting the movement of the first member toward the third member are provided; and a biasing member for biasing the third member toward a direction opposite to the first member.

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6. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is a compressible spring.

5 7. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a sensor for detecting that the specimen vessel is sandwiched between the first member and the second member.

10 8. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second member includes a washing bath for washing the suction needle.

112 15 9. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein blood is contained as a specimen in the specimen vessel. *not claimed*

112 10. A sample suction apparatus according to claim 1, which is utilized in a hematology analyzer.

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112 11. A hematology analyzer utilizing a sample suction apparatus according to claim 1.